

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11-14, 16, 17, 19-24, 26 and 28-37 are pending in the present Application. By this Amendment, claims 8, 11-14, 16, 17, 19-24, 26, and 28-35 have been cancelled and claims 38-48 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 5-7, and 36-48 are currently at issue.

I. Summary of Examiner Interview

On August 22, 2007, Examiner Barrett conducted a telephonic interview with Applicants' attorney Gregory G. Schlenz. Applicants thank Examiner Barrett for her time in conducting the interview.

In the interview, the finality of the present Office Action was discussed, as the Office Action was identified as both Final (in the Summary) and Non-final (P. 5, Par. 11). The Examiner agreed that the Office Action would be treated as Non-Final.

The rejections of claims 26 and 28-34 under § 112 were also discussed in the interview. No agreement was reached regarding the patentability of claims 26 and 28-34.

The Ericson reference was also discussed with regard to the present rejections under § 102. The Examiner agreed to withdraw the rejection of claim 37 under § 102. No agreement was reached with regard to the patentability of any of the other claims.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Ericson

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5, 16, 17, 19-22, 35, and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 654,579 to Ericson. Applicants submit that claims 1, 2, 5, 35, and 37 are not anticipated by Ericson, in view of the arguments and amendments herein. Claims 16, 18, 19-22, and 35 have been cancelled.

A. Claims 1, 2 and 5

Claim 1, as amended, includes, among other elements, "the first extension bolt having a proximal end connected to the first actuator member and a distal end with a projection

configured to mate with a first receiver for locking the door in position, the second extension bolt having a proximal end connected to the second actuator member and a distal end with a projection configured to mate with a second receiver for locking the door in position.” Ericson discloses a door bolt assembly that includes a knob (H) connected to a sliding member (E), which is in turn connected to an adjusting plate (J) connected to the extension bolt (B/C). (Ericson, Lns. 36-72; FIG. 1). The knob (H) is moved upward and downward to extend and retract the extension bolt (B/C). However, the mechanism described in Ericson does not have a “second actuator” and a “second extension bolt,” but rather, has only a single extension bolt (B/C). Thus, Ericson does not disclose this element of claim 1, and cannot anticipate claim 1.

Claims 2 and 5 depend from claim 1 and contain all the elements thereof. Accordingly, Ericson cannot anticipate claims 2 and 5, for at least the same reasons.

B. Claim 37

Claim 37, as amended, includes, among other elements, “the central lock unit having a housing mounted within the door, a movable actuator member having a first portion located within the housing and a second portion extending out of the housing adjacent the lock edge.” As discussed in the Examiner interview, the mechanism disclosed in Ericson does not contain a housing, or at least, does not have an actuator having a first portion located within the housing and a second portion extending out of the housing. Accordingly, Ericson does not disclose at least this element of claim 37, and cannot anticipate claim 37.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Hunt

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, claims 1, 8, 11, 12, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,042,851 to Hunt. Applicants submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Hunt, in view of the arguments and amendments herein. Claims 8, 11, and 12 have been cancelled.

Claim 1, as amended, includes, among other elements, “a first actuator member and a second actuator member, each connected to the central lock member ... wherein operation of the lock member moves the first and second actuators in opposite directions.” Hunt does not

disclose this element of claim 1. In the mechanism disclosed by Hunt, the bolts (52) and the rods (CR) move simultaneously in the same direction, rather than in opposite directions. As best illustrated in FIGS. 3 and 6 of Hunt, both bolts (52) and both rods (CR) are actuated by a rectangular slide (30) that is moved up and down through exertion of force onto a pin (40). Accordingly, it is clear that both rods (CR) move in the same direction at the same time, and the mechanism of Hunt does not have two actuator members that move in opposite directions. Thus, Hunt does not disclose this element of claim 1, and cannot anticipate claim 1.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In paragraph 8 of the Office Action, claims 6, 7, 23, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ericson. Additionally, in paragraph 9 of the Office Action, claim 13 was rejected as being unpatentable over Hunt, in view of Ericson. Applicants submit that claims 6 and 7 are patentable over Ericson, in view of the arguments and amendments herein. Claims 13, 23, and 24 have been cancelled.

Claims 6 and 7, through dependency from claim 1, include, among other elements, “the first extension bolt having a proximal end connected to the first actuator member and a distal end with a projection configured to mate with a first receiver for locking the door in position, the second extension bolt having a proximal end connected to the second actuator member and a distal end with a projection configured to mate with a second receiver for locking the door in position.” As described above with respect to claim 1, Ericson does not disclose this element. Additionally, there is no motivation for one skilled in the art to modify Ericson to include this element, and in fact, such modification may be difficult in the mechanism of Ericson. More specifically, incorporating a second extension bolt into the mechanism of Ericson may require extensive modification, because Ericson only discloses sliding movement of the mechanism in one direction. Typically, a door lock with two extension bolts requires simultaneous movement of both extension bolts in opposite directions to lock and unlock the door. Ericson would require a more complicated mechanism to accomplish such movement. Accordingly, one skilled in the art would not modify Ericson to include a second extension bolt.

Thus, at least this element is not disclosed by the cited art, and no *prima facie* case of obviousness has been established with respect to claims 6 and 7.

V. New Claims

Applicants submit that new claims 38-48 are patentable over the references cited in the present Office Action, for the reasons briefly described below.

Claim 38 includes, among other elements, “a first extension bolt and a second extension bolt alternately connectable to the actuator ... wherein the first extension bolt is connectable to the actuator ... and wherein the second extension bolt is connectable to the actuator by connecting the second extension bolt to the first end of the adaptor body and connecting the second end of the adaptor body to the actuator.” None of the cited references discloses a door lock assembly having two alternate extension bolt configurations as recited in claim 38. Each cited reference discloses only a single extension bolt connectable to the actuator and a single configuration for said extension bolt. Thus, claim 38, and dependent claims 39-47 depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited references.

Claim 48 includes, among other elements, “a second extension bolt connectable to the actuator member by an adaptor in a second configuration ... wherein the first extension bolt and the second extension bolt are selectably and alternately connectable to the actuator in the first and second configurations, respectively.” As described above, none of the cited references discloses a door lock assembly having two alternate extension bolt configurations as recited in claim 48. Each cited reference discloses only a single extension bolt connectable to the actuator and a single configuration for said extension bolt. Thus, claim 48 is patentable over the cited references.

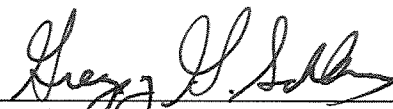
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections and allowance of claims 1, 2, 5-7, and 37 in the present Application. Applicants also respectfully request examination and allowance of new claims 38-48. Applicants submit that the Application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early notice of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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